

ANNEX B

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HOOVER COMMISSION REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE
ACTIVITIES

THE CREATION OF COMMITTEES TO CONCERN THEMSELVES
WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

The only specific recommendation made by the Hoover Commission in its report on intelligence activities was as follows:

Recommendation.

"(a) That the President appoint a committee of experienced private citizens, who shall have the responsibility to examine and report to him periodically on the work of Government foreign intelligence activities. This committee should also give such information to the public as the President may direct. The committee should function on a part-time and per diem basis.

(b) That the Congress consider creating a Joint Congressional Committee on Foreign Intelligence, similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. In such case, the two committees, one presidential and the other congressional, could collaborate on matters of special importance to the national security."

In making this recommendation, the Commission departed from the recommendation of its Task Force on intelligence activities, chaired by General Mark Clark. The Clark Task Force had recommended the creation of a permanent "watchdog" commission, to consist of members of both houses of the Congress, together with a group of eminent citizens to be appointed by the President. The proposed commission would make periodic surveys of all aspects of government foreign intelligence operations and report, under adequate security safeguards, its findings and recommendations to the Congress and to the President.

Comment.

On 13 January 1956, the President appointed a permanent Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, consisting of eight distinguished citizens under the chairmanship of Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Board of Consultants has been requested by the President to make continuing studies

into all aspects of foreign intelligence activities of the Government, and to report to him at regular intervals. The Board has been actively engaged in its task and has made a number of specific reports and recommendations to the President.

A number of resolutions have been introduced in the Senate and in the House which provided for the creation of a Joint Congressional Committee on Foreign Intelligence activities. One of these, Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, came before the Senate during the 2nd Session of the 84th Congress, and was defeated. Under existing arrangements, the Central Intelligence Agency is responsible to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on substantive legislative matters, and to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees on money matters. Subcommittees of each of these Committees have been created to deal with CIA matters.